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It is true that most of the good influence along this line must come from the teacher in the classroom ; at the same time, the pupil's deepest impression often comes from his own unaided tussle with the text before the teacher has a chance. His own defective translation is fixed in his mind by the necessity of holding it for tomorrow's recitation, and the impression tends to lower his standard of translation.

The mythological, historical, and antiquarian notes are clear, brief, and uniformly excellent, and constitute one of the best claims the book has to recognition. There is nothing, either in these notes or in the others, that can be classed as useless lumber. Especially useful and suggestive are the lists of references to other passages in the *Aeneid* in which the peculiarities discussed in the notes occur. The books contain good illustrations: a colored plate of the mosaic of Sousse, representing Virgil seated between two muses, the *Tabula Iliaca*, and sixteen excellent reproductions of illustrations from the *Codex Vaticanus* and the *Codex Romanus*.

The vocabulary, considered by itself, is a good piece of work, but it does not fit the notes. In some passages the pupil will be embarrassed by the meagerness of translation in the notes and the failure of the vocabulary to provide the needed help. It is unfair to both persons when the notes are written by one man, and the vocabulary by another. One of the results in the present case is disagreement of spelling: *vo* in the text, *vu* in the vocabulary. The blunder in the definition of *postquam* has not been corrected in the new edition.

These are minor matters, however, and the books are so scholarly and have such a sanity and freshness about them, that they deserve careful attention from every teacher of Virgil.

J. J. S.

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*Aristotle's Politics.* Translated by BENJAMIN JOWETT. With Introduction, Analysis, and Index by H. W. C. DAVIS. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1905. Pp. 355. \$1.

This is a reissue, in a small, attractive, and serviceable volume, of Jowett's translation of Aristotle's *Politics*. Teachers and students, whether of the ancient classics for their own sake or of political theory and history, will certainly welcome this work in such convenient form.

The Introduction is only the barest sketch of Aristotle's life and work, but at its close, in a few well-chosen words, Mr. Davis gives an estimate of Aristotle's place in the history of political theory that has the virtue of being appreciative without being extravagant. Some have styled Aristotle a great modern thinker, and with some truth, but his importance is not lessened by recognizing that many of his conclusions can now be easily refuted; that his ideas of slavery as indispensable and of commerce as necessarily degrading are extreme when not quite untenable; or that the city-state, of which he wrote, was passing away even at the time of his writing. A return to Aristotle, then, would not be warranted, but, as

Mr. Davis says: "still we must start from Aristotle." "Aristotle is the best interpreter of an essential link in the chain of political development."

Preceding the translation is an analysis commendable both for its manner and for its reasonable brevity, and at the end there is an index reduced from that of the translator and compiled with special regard to the subject-headings. Since the *Politics* has to be treated "as a quarry of arguments and theories rather than as an artistically constructed piece of literature," such an index is a great help.

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*A Primer of Classical and English Philology.* By WALTER W. SKEAT. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1905. Pp. viii + 101. \$0.50.

Over half of this little book is devoted to ablaut as exemplified in the seven classes of strong verbs in English. A chapter is given to each of the five *e:o* series, one to the *a:a* series, and one to the so-called reduplicating verbs. There are from a dozen to twenty-five examples under each. Consonantal relation is treated in chaps. 3 and 4, and in part of chap. 2. Grimm's law, *s* and *w* in Greek, rhotacism in Latin, and consonant combinations in Greek are among the topics discussed. The pronunciation of Latin and Greek, transliteration, Latin accentuation, and the weakening of vowels in Latin unaccented syllables are discussed in chaps. 1 and 2.

The terminology throughout follows the English practice. Zend is used for Avestan, and the word "ablaut" does not occur.

This book should prove useful (1) to teachers of Latin and Greek who have not had training in comparative philology and who wish to gain some insight into its principles, (2) for college or university classes in the elements of philology. The chief value here would lie in the compact lists of examples, though the author's brief explanations are, in the main, decidedly clear and helpful.

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